

## BLACKSMITHS

Shoes for horses and oxen, wagon and buggy tires, sharpened and tempered, plow shares and drills and picks were just a few of the essentials needed by early settlers of Midway. For these necessities they looked to the blacksmiths of the community.

Fires of the huge forges would often glow late into the night and the anvils would ring as the blacksmiths worked to keep the farmers ready for another day's work. Services were usually paid for in produce, exchanged labor or whatever means of exchange was most readily available.

Those who were most prominent in the trade in Midway included Henry Alexander, Joseph Neilsen, John Wright, Henry T. Coleman, Robert Krebs, Samuel (Sam) Hair, Robert Ross, Ernest White, J. R. Springer and William Gibson. Mr. Gibson operated the last blacksmith shop in the community.